

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PRAGUE 00181 01 OF 02 270917Z

15

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

ACDA-05 SAJ-01 BIB-01 EB-07 VO-03 SCA-01 CU-02 DHA-02

ORM-02 IO-11 CPR-01 SCS-03 SAM-01 /099 W

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P R 261515Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9489

INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY BERLIN

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

AMCONGEN MUNICH

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 PRAGUE 0181

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, CSCE, CZ

SUBJECT: CALL ON DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER

REF: PRAGUE 0176

1. AFTER HEARING DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER SPACIL'S ORAL STATEMENT ON CSCE IMPLEMENTATION AND BILATERAL RELATIONS (REFTEL), CHARGE MADE FOLLOWING POINTS.

2. WHILE USG FULLY SHARED GOC'S INTEREST IN IMPROVING BILATERAL RELATIONS, WE BELIEVED CSCE FINAL ACT REPRESENTED COMMITMENT BY SIGNATORIES THAT HAD TO BE FULFILLED REGARDLESS OF THE STATE OF BILATERAL RELATIONS. SPACIL REPLIED THAT US AND CZECHSLOVAK VIEWS ON THIS WERE CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 02 PRAGUE 00181 01 OF 02 270917Z

MUCH THE SAME: ALL SIGNATORIES HAD TO FULFILL

COMMITMENTS, BUT IT WOULD BE EASIER BETWEEN SOME PARTNERS THAN OTHERS. CHARGE SAID IMPORTANT DISTINCTION, HE THOUGHT, WAS THAT FULFILLMENT OF CSCE OBLIGATIONS MUST NOT BE MADE CONDITIONAL UPON STATE OF BILATERAL RELATIONS. SPACIL SAID FULFILLMENT WAS CERTAINLY NOT CONDITIONAL ON BILATERAL RELATIONS; IT WAS SIMPLY THAT BETTER RELATIONS MADE FULFILLMENT EASIER.

3. US WELCOMED CSSR STEPS TAKEN IN IMPLEMENTATION OF CSCE FINAL ACT, E.G. ALLOWING FOREIGN FIRMS TO OPEN OFFICES IN CSSR AND PUBLIC DISSEMINATION OF FINAL ACT DOCUMENT ITSELF. RE LATTER POINT, CHARGE TOLD SOME OF WAYS USG HAD DISSEMINATED FINAL ACT, AND SAID GOC SHOULD BE AWARE (IN CONTRADISTINCTION TO WHAT HAD APPEARED IN PRESS IN SOME SOCIALIST COUNTRIES) THAT WE HAD MADE FINAL ACT FULLY AVAILABLE TO US PUBLIC.

4. RE RFE, CHARGE SPOKE OF PRESENT ADMINISTRATION OF RFE AND SAID HE COULD NOT AGREE WITH WORD "INFLAMMATORY" APPLIED TO RFE BROADCASTS. HE SAID RFE BROADCAST POLICY WAS UNDER GOOD GUIDANCE AND HE THOUGHT WHATEVER EE OFFICIALS MAY HAVE HELD IN PAST, IF THEY EXAMINED BROADCASTS TODAY THEY WOULD FIND THEM RESPONSIBLE. CHARGE SAID RE VOA, THIS WAS OFFICIAL USG RADIO, IT WORKED UNDER VERY CAREFUL POLICY GUIDANCE, AND ITS AIM WAS TO PROVIDE FULL COVERAGE OF NEWS. SPACIL SAID TROUBLE WAS VOA WOULD COVER OPEN LETTERS BY DISSIDENTS (TO WHICH CHARGE HAD REFERRED), BUT WOULD NOT CARRY GOOD NEWS ABOUT FIVE YEAR PLAN SUCCESSES. CHARGE DIFFERED AND SAID VOA SOUGHT BALANCE, COVERING WHOLE GAMUT OF NEWS, AND WE WERE PREPARED TO WITHSTAND EXAMINATION ON THIS ANY TIME. CHARGE ALSO ALLUDED TO CZECH TREATMENT OF US, E.G. KREJCI ARTICLES IN RUDE PRAVO, BUT SAID WE DID NOT ON THIS BASIS DENY VISAS TO CORRESPONDENTS. CHARGE SAID US PRINCIPLE UNDER CSCE WAS FOR OPEN ACCESS TO JOURNALISTS, AND HE FELT HIMSELF AFTER YEAR AND CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 03 PRAGUE 00181 01 OF 02 270917Z

A HALF IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA THAT IF JOURNALISTS WERE ALLOWED TO COVER THE COUNTRY AS A WHOLE, GOC OFFICIALS WOULD NOT BE DISMAYED AT PICTURE OF THEIR COUNTRY WHICH APPEARED ABROAD. ON SPECIFICS OF VISAS, CHARGE SAID WE HOPED THAT IF AND WHEN SEEGER (LA TIMES) AND FREUND (VOA) REAPPLIED FOR VISAS, GOC WOULD RECONSIDER AND ISSUE THEM. (SPACIL GAVE NO REPLY TO THIS AND DID NOT MENTION VISAS FOR TRILL

OR OTHER CZECH JOURNALISTS.)

5. ON DIVIDED FAMILIES, CHARGE EXPRESSED SATISFACTION AT DETERMINATION OF SEVERAL CASES SINCE LAST LIST WAS PRESENTED OCT 31, AND HOPED GOC WOULD CONTINUE TO WORK AT THIS MATTER, WHICH WAS OF GREAT IMPORTANCE TO PUBLIC AND CONGRESSIONAL OPINION. SPACIL SAID IN WORKING RECENTLY ON GERMAN AND FRENCH CASES HE HAD BEEN SURPRISED TO SEE THAT HUNDREDS OF CASES OF EMIGRATION WERE PROCESSED NORMALLY WITHOUT PUBLICITY, AND NO ONE TOOK NOTICE; PERHAPS GOC SHOULD DO MORE TO MAKE RECORD KNOWN. CHARGE SAID HE HAD ALWAYS FAVORED QUIET DIPLOMACY IN THESE MATTERS RATHER THAN PUBLICITY, BUT IT WAS TRUE THAT SOME CASES FOUND THEIR WAY TO THE PUBLIC EYE. BECAUSE OF THIS, IT WAS IMPORTANT AREA IN WHICH TO REGISTER BILATERAL PROGRESS.

6. CHARGE ASKED STATUS OF RATIFICATION OF CONSULAR CONVENTION. SIXTH DEPT REPRESENTATIVE PRESENT (KAMIS) SAID HE THOUGHT ZANTOVSKY (HEAD SIXTH DEPT) HAD DONE EVERYTHING NECESSARY FROM MFA AND IT WAS IN THE BUREAUCRACY NOW. SPACIL SAID HE WOULD LOOK INTO IT FURTHER, BUT DID NOT BELIEVE ANY SUBSTANTIVE OR POLITICAL PROBLEM EXISTED.

7. SPACIL UNDERLINED WHAT HE HAD SAID ABOUT GOC READINESS TO BEGIN NEGOTIATIONS ON EXCHANGES AGREEMENT, AND WOULD AWAIT REPLY FROM US SIDE. (SEE SEPTEL.)

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PAGE 01 PRAGUE 00181 02 OF 02 270929Z

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 PRAGUE 0181

8. SPACIL ALSO SAID US DRAFT NOTE ON ABOLISHING CLOSED AREAS WAS BEING STUDIED AND HE HOPED FOR REPLY SOON. CHARGE SAID HE HOPED IT CAME IN TIME FOR HIM TO SEE KRKONOSE SKI AREA BEFORE FINISHING HIS TOUR IN PRAGUE. SPACIL SAID HE DID NOT THINK IT WOULD TAKE LONG, BUT EVEN SO HE WOULD BE GLAD TO MAKE CLOSED AREA EXCEPTION IN THIS CASE.

9. CHARGE INQUIRED ABOUT NEW AMBASSADOR TO US JOHANNES'S PLANS AND WAS TOLD (AFTER INQUIRIES) THAT HE HAD JUST ARRIVED FROM OTTAWA. (CHARGE ISSUED INVITATION FOR DINNER PRIOR TO JOHANNES'S DEPARTURE FOR WASHINGTON.)

10. ON BEHALF OF A NUMBER OF US FAMILIES WORKING
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PAGE 02 PRAGUE 00181 02 OF 02 270929Z

FOR UNION CARBIDE AT ZALUZI WHO ARE HAVING VISA PROBLEMS, CHARGE GAVE SPACIL NON-PAPER ASKING MFA HELP. SPACIL PROMISED TO LOOK INTO IT.

11. CHARGE ASKED ABOUT RECENT MEETING OF EE DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTERS IN PRAGUE AND SPACIL SAID THIS WAS MERELY ONE IN SERIES OF REGULAR WARSAW PACT COUNTRY CONSULTATIONS, WITH NOTHING REMARKABLE IN IT. CHARGE THEN ASKED IF MFA HAD ANY OBJECTION TO CALLS BY EMBOFFS REQUESTING INFORMATION AND GOC VIEWS ON VARIOUS FOREIGN POLICY TOPICS. CHARGE NOTED THAT IN MOSCOW, IN CONTRAST TO WHEN HE SERVED THERE, OUR EMBASSY SAW MFA AND OTHER INSTITUTIONS TO DISCUSS ALL MANNER OF QUESTIONS; THIS WAS DONE VERY LITTLE IN PRAGUE, AND SHOULD BE OF BENEFIT TO BOTH SIDES. SPACIL SAID IT WAS DONE NORMALLY IN WASHINGTON, AND CZECHS WOULD WELCOME IT IN PRAGUE. (COMMENT: EMBASSY WILL TRY

TO FOLLOW UP. SPACIL DID NOT SEEM AWARE THAT HE
HAD JUST FAILED TO ANSWER QUESTION ABOUT WARSAW
PACT MEETING IN ANY MEANINGFUL WAY, SO WE ARE NOT
VERY SANGUINE ABOUT PROSPECTS HERE.)

12. FINALLY, SPACIL ASKED CHARGE HIS VIEWS ON
THE STATE OF THE UNION MESSAGE, WHICH WERE PROVIDED.
CHARGE'S BASIC POINT WAS THAT DESPITE LACK OF
REFERENCE TO USSR (HICH SPACIL ASKED ABOUT) AND
DESPITE CURRENTLY CONTENTIOUS STATES OF DETENTE, HE
STRONGLY BELIEVED ANY US ADMINISTRATHION WOULD CARRY
FORWARD BASIC POLICY TOWARDS USSR AND EE WHICH
WAS NOW IN FORCE.
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